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EXAMINER

YIGDALL, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2192

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/824,692

Applicant(s)

UOTA, YUJI

Examiner

Michael J. Yigdall

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10 and 12-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10 and 12-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to Applicant's submission filed on September 30, 2005. Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-22 are now pending.

#### *Response to Arguments*

2. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by Applicant's amendment.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 13 and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,947 to Watanabe et al. (art of record, "Watanabe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,393,490 to Stiles et al. (art of record, "Stiles") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,502,124 to Shimakawa et al. ("Shimakawa").

With respect to claim 1 (currently amended), Watanabe discloses a system development method for developing a system using a development-support system (see, for example, the abstract) made up of a server used to provide information about functional units each implementing a different function and files describing said different functions, at least one developer client to develop said functional units and at least one user client to develop said

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system configured to perform desired operations by combining said functional units (see, for example, column 2, lines 48-57, which shows a server for providing intellectual property, i.e. functional unit information, and user clients for designing systems based on the intellectual property or functional units, noting that the functional units are inherently developed by developer clients prior to distribution), wherein all of said server, said at least one developer client, and said at least one user client are connected through an internet (see, for example, FIG. 3, which shows the connections between the servers and the clients, including Internet 110), comprising:

(a) a first step, to be taken by said at least one user client, of registering an operator of said user client as a user of said development-support system (see, for example, column 6, lines 41-49, which shows registering users);

(b) a second step, to be taken by said at least one user client, of obtaining, by referring to information about said functional units, files describing a plurality of said functional units which are needed for development of said system (see, for example, column 7, line 59 to column 8, line 3, which shows transferring files describing the intellectual property or functional units);

(c) a third step, to be taken by said user client, of developing said system by combining files describing said plurality of said functional units (see, for example, column 17, lines 26-49, which shows developing a system based on the files);

(d) a fourth step, to be taken by said at least one user client, of transmitting question information about at least one of said functional units or keyword information regarding information required for development of said system to said server, when said system does not operate properly due to malfunctions of said at least one of said functional units or when said

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information required for development of said system using said at least one of said functional units is to be acquired (see, for example, column 18, line 64 to column 19, line 19, which shows providing keywords to retrieve or acquire necessary information);

(e) a fifth step, taken by said server, of accepting and registering said question information, said registering including storing said question information in association with said at least one functional unit (see, for example, FIG. 4 and column 6, lines 10-20, which shows registering and storing question information in association with the intellectual property or functional units).

Although Watanabe discloses providing questions and answers (see, for example, column 5, lines 34-48), Watanabe does not expressly disclose transmitting said question information to said at least one developer client of said at least one of said functional units.

However, Stiles discloses transmitting a question to the developer when the user encounters a defect or malfunction (see, for example, column 5, line 46 to column 6, line 4), for the purpose of improving customer service (see, for example, column 3, lines 53-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to supplement the questions and answers of Watanabe with the means taught by Stiles for reporting and responding to malfunctions, in order to improve customer service.

Watanabe in view of Stiles further discloses:

(f) a sixth step, taken by said at least one developer client, of transmitting reply information to said question information to said server (see, for example, Stiles, column 6, lines 34-38, which shows transmitting a reply to the question);

(g) a seventh step, taken by said server, of registering said reply information, said registering including storing said reply information in association with said at least one of said functional units (see, for example, Watanabe, FIG. 4 and column 6, lines 10-20, which shows registering and storing answer information or reply information in association with the intellectual property or functional units).

Although Watanabe discloses transmitting reply information, such as notifications of new intellectual property, to only those users who have registered an interest in receiving such reply information (see, for example, column 19, lines 22-29), Watanabe does not expressly disclose:

(h) an eighth step of transmitting said reply information only to (1) other user clients and other developer clients who have already acquired said at least one of said functional units and (2) other user clients and other developer clients who have acquired a right to acquire said at least one of said functional units and have not yet acquired said at least one of said functional units.

However, Shimakawa discloses transmitting software only to clients who have already acquired the software (see, for example, column 4, lines 15-28) and clients who are licensed to acquire the software but have not yet done so (see, for example, column 3, lines 46-61), so that the clients are notified of new software and are able acquire the software whenever necessary (see, for example, column 4, lines 10-14 and 30-33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to transmit the reply information of Watanabe and Stiles only to those user clients and developer clients who have already acquired the intellectual property or functional unit, and to those user clients and developer clients who have acquired a right to acquire the intellectual

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property or functional unit but have not yet done so, such as taught by Shimakawa, so as to notify the clients of the reply information.

Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses:

(i) a ninth step, to be taken by said at least one user client, of obtaining, when necessary, a file of another functional unit, based on said reply information to said question information or on said information retrieved according to said keyword information and, if necessary, of changing design to develop said system and checking operations of the resulting system (see, for example, Watanabe, column 19, lines 22-29, which shows receiving or obtaining new intellectual property, i.e. files for other functional units),

wherein, in said second step, said files of said plurality of said functional units are allowed to be obtained only when an application for individual or collective acquisition of said files is made and a right to acquire said files is granted through examination of the application for acquisition of each of said functional units or of every collective group of said functional units (see, for example, Watanabe, column 18, lines 35-61, which shows an approval process for granting the right to obtain the files).

With respect to claim 3 (original), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein, in said fourth step, when any question about said functional units that has been already asked is contained in said question information, a notification informing that said question about said functional units has been already asked is provided, and other information required for development of said system is able to be obtained (see, for example, Watanabe, column 5, lines 34-48, which shows providing intellectual property

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information for development that includes questions and answers, i.e. questions about the functional units that have already been asked).

With respect to claim 4 (previously presented), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said reply information to said question information is additionally transmitted to a user having wanted to obtain said files but having not yet obtained said files and, when there is a model functional unit that has been used as a model for development of said functional unit, a user having developed said model functional unit (see, for example, Watanabe, column 5, lines 34-54, which shows sharing intellectual property, which includes questions and answers, among user clients and developer clients, noting that the question and answers, i.e. the question information and the corresponding reply information, may be transmitted to a user who has not yet obtained any files or to user who has developed a model functional unit).

With respect to claim 5 (previously presented), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses a tenth step of transmitting, when said developer of said at least one of said functional units has found a malfunction of said at least one of said functional units, contact information notifying that said at least one of said functional units have said malfunction and information about a method for taking a measure against said malfunction (see, for example, Watanabe, column 19, lines 22-29, which shows automatically transmitting notifications when new intellectual property is available, and see, for example, Stiles, column 2, lines 18-21 and column 6, lines 34-38, which further shows transmitting information from the developer to notify users of defects or malfunctions that have been identified and to provide appropriate solutions).



With respect to claim 6 (original), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said system is a semiconductor device and said functional unit is a basic logic element or a basic logic circuit constructed by combining a plurality of said basic logic elements (see, for example, Watanabe, column 16, lines 15-24, which shows developing a semiconductor device based on circuit data).

With respect to claim 7 (original), Watanabe in view of Stiles further discloses the limitation wherein said system is a semiconductor device and said functional units include a central processing unit, storage device, buffer, and peripheral device and wherein a file of said peripheral device is so constructed as to be able to select either of a file to implement its function by using hardware or a file to implement its function by using software (see, for example, Watanabe, column 8, lines 29-44 and column 13, line 43 to column 14, line 45, which show functional units of a semiconductor device including processing units, memories or storage devices, buffers and peripheral devices, and see, for example, Watanabe, column 17, lines 26-49, which shows implementing functions using hardware and software).

With respect to claim 8 (original), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said system is software and said functional units are routines or objects to perform predetermined processing (see, for example, Watanabe, column 17, lines 26-49, which shows software-based design stages in which the functional units are specified as functions or routines in the C or C++ languages).

With respect to claim 9 (currently amended), the steps and features recited in the claim are analogous to the limitations recited in claim 1 (see the rejection of claim 1 above). Note that Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses a storage medium storing a system development program for causing a computer to execute the recited method (see, for example, Watanabe, column 3, lines 8-16).

With respect to claim 10 (currently amended), Watanabe discloses a development-support system (see, for example, the abstract) comprising:

- (a) a server used to provide information about functional units each implementing a different function and files describing said different function (see, for example, column 2, lines 48-57, which shows a server for providing intellectual property, i.e. functional unit information);
- (b) at least one developer client to develop said functional units (note that the functional units are inherently developed by developer clients prior to distribution);
- (c) at least one user client to develop a system configured to perform desired operations by combining said functional units (see, for example, column 2, lines 48-57, which shows user clients for designing systems based on the intellectual property or functional units); and
- (d) wherein all of said server, said at least one developer client, and said at least one user client are connected through an internet (see, for example, FIG. 3, which shows the connections between the servers and the clients, including Internet 110); and
- (e) wherein said at least one user client obtains files of a plurality of said functional units (see, for example, column 7, line 59 to column 8, line 3, which shows transferring files describing the intellectual property or functional units) and develops said system by combining

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files of said plurality of functional units (see, for example, column 17, lines 26-49, which shows developing a system based on the files).

Although Watanabe discloses providing questions and answers (see, for example, column 5, lines 34-48), Watanabe does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein said at least one user client checks operations of the developed system and, as a result, when said developed system does not operate properly due to a malfunction of any one of said functional units, transmits question information about said malfunction of said malfunctioning functional unit to said server.

However, Stiles discloses checking the operation of a system and transmitting a question to the developer when the user encounters a defect or malfunction (see, for example, column 5, line 46 to column 6, line 4), for the purpose of improving customer service (see, for example, column 3, lines 53-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to supplement the questions and answers of Watanabe with the means taught by Stiles for reporting and responding to malfunctions, in order to improve customer service.

Watanabe in view of Stiles further discloses:

(f) wherein said server, after having accepted and registered said question information (see, for example, Watanabe, FIG. 4 and column 6, lines 10-20, which shows registering and storing question information), transmits said question information to said at least one developer client of said malfunctioning functional unit (see, for example, Stiles, see column 5, line 46 to column 6, line 4, which shows transmitting the question to the developer);

(g) wherein said at least one developer client transmits reply information to said question information to said server (see, for example, Stiles, column 6, lines 34-38, which shows transmitting a reply to the question); and

(h) wherein said server accepts and registers said reply information, said registering including storing said reply information in association with said malfunctioning functional unit (see, for example, Watanabe, FIG. 4 and column 6, lines 10-20, which shows registering and storing answer information or reply information in association with the intellectual property or functional units).

Although Watanabe discloses transmitting reply information, such as notifications of new intellectual property, to only those users who have registered an interest in receiving such reply information (see, for example, column 19, lines 22-29), Watanabe does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein said server transmits said reply information only to said at least one user client, other user clients and other developer clients who have already obtained files of said malfunctioning functional unit, and other user clients and other developer clients who have acquired a right to obtain said files of said malfunctioning unit and have not yet obtained said files of said malfunctioning functional unit.

However, Shimakawa discloses transmitting software only to clients who have already acquired the software (see, for example, column 4, lines 15-28) and clients who are licensed to acquire the software but have not yet done so (see, for example, column 3, lines 46-61), so that the clients are notified of new software and are able acquire the software whenever necessary (see, for example, column 4, lines 10-14 and 30-33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to transmit the reply information of Watanabe and Stiles only to those user clients and developer clients who have already acquired the intellectual property or functional unit, and to those user clients and developer clients who have acquired a right to acquire the intellectual property or functional unit but have not yet done so, such as taught by Shimakawa, so as to notify the clients of the reply information.

Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said at least one user client makes an application for acquisition of each of a plurality of functional units or of said plurality of functional units collectively, said server examines said application for each of said plurality of functional units or for said plurality of functional units collectively and grants said at least one user client a right to acquire, and said at least one user client, based on the granted right, obtains files of said functional unit from said server (see, for example, Watanabe, column 18, lines 35-61, which shows an approval process for granting the right to obtain the files).

With respect to claim 12 (original), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said server, only when said question information has been registered as coming from a user of said development-support system and said question information has been transmitted from a user having obtained files of said functional units, accepts said question information (see, for example, Stiles, column 2, lines 15-17, which shows that users transmit question information to the developer, and column 4, lines 29-32, which shows that such users have already obtained the program files).

With respect to claim 13 (original), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said server, when having already accepted and registered said question information about said functional units, registers said question information together with question information that has been already registered and transmits contents of said registration to said developer client (see, for example, Stiles, column 6, lines 4-8, which shows storing and categorizing the question information, and column 6, lines 21-25, which shows transmitting the contents to the developer client).

With respect to claim 16 (previously presented), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said server accepts said reply information only when said reply information has been transmitted by a user who has been registered as a user of said development-support system and who has developed said at least one functional unit (see, for example, Stiles, column 2, lines 18-21, which shows that developers transmit reply information to the user, and column 4, lines 21-22, which shows that such developers, inherently users of the development support system, have developed the program or functional units).

With respect to claim 17 (original), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said interested user is a user having obtained said files including a user having transmitted said question information, a user having wanted to obtain said files but having not yet obtained said files or, when there is a model functional unit that has been used as a model for development of said functional unit, a user having developed said model functional unit (see, for example, Watanabe, column 5, lines 34-54, which shows sharing intellectual property that includes questions and answers; note that the question and answers, i.e.

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the question information and the corresponding reply information, may be transmitted to the user who submitted the question, to a user who has not yet obtained any files, or to user who has developed a model functional unit).

With respect to claim 18 (previously presented), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said developer client transmits, when said developer of said functional unit has found a malfunction of said malfunctioning functional unit, contact information notifying that said malfunctioning functional unit has said malfunction and information about a method for taking a measure against said malfunction, to said server (see, for example, Watanabe, column 19, lines 22-29, which shows automatically transmitting notifications when new intellectual property is available, and see, for example, Stiles, column 2, lines 18-21 and column 6, lines 34-38, which further shows transmitting information from the developer to notify users of defects or malfunctions that have been identified and to provide appropriate solutions).

With respect to claim 19 (previously presented), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said system is a semiconductor device and said at least one functional unit is a basic logic element or a basic logic circuit constructed by combining a plurality of said basic logic elements (see, for example, Watanabe, column 16, lines 15-24, which shows developing a semiconductor device based on circuit data).

With respect to claim 20 (original), the combination of Watanabe and Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses the limitation wherein said system is a semiconductor device and said functional unit is a central processing unit, storage device, buffer, and peripheral device and

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wherein a file of said peripheral device is so constructed as to be able to select either of a file to implement its function by using hardware or a file to implement its function by using software (see, for example, Watanabe, column 8, lines 29-44, and column 13, line 43 to column 14, line 45, which show functional units of a semiconductor device including processing units, memories or storage devices, buffers and peripheral devices, and see, for example, Watanabe, column 17, lines 26-49, which shows implementing functions using hardware and software).

With respect to claim 21 (original), Watanabe in view of Stiles further discloses the limitation wherein said system is software and said functional units are routines or objects to perform predetermined processing (see, for example, Watanabe, column 17, lines 26-49, which shows software-based design stages in which the functional units are specified as functions or routines in the C or C++ languages).

With respect to claim 22 (currently amended), the steps and features recited in the claim are analogous to the limitations recited in claim 10 (see the rejection of claim 10 above). Note that Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa further discloses a storage medium storing a system development program for causing a computer to execute the recited method (see, for example, Watanabe, column 3, lines 8-16).

5. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa, as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,438,658 to Fitzpatrick et al. (art of record, "Fitzpatrick").



With respect to claim 14 (previously presented), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein said server transmits a date when a reply to said question information should be made by said at least one developer client and, if there is no reply by said date, transmits information urging said at least one developer client to make a reply and, if there is still no reply even after said date, again transmits information urging said at least one developer client to make a reply on every predetermined date.

However, Fitzpatrick discloses transmitting a date by which a response or reply should be made (see, for example, column 4, lines 10-15 and 29-32) and repeatedly transmitting a reminder to the user, i.e. the developer client, to respond to the information (see, for example, column 6, lines 3-29), so that a reply may be made prior to the specified date (see, for example, column 2, lines 41-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include, in the system of Watanabe, Stiles and Shimakawa, reply dates and reminders, such as taught by Fitzpatrick, for the purpose of soliciting a timely response from the developer.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa in view of Fitzpatrick, as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,133 to Smirnov et al. (art of record, "Smirnov").

With respect to claim 15 (previously presented), Watanabe in view of Stiles in view of Shimakawa in view of Fitzpatrick does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein said server transmits information notifying that a predetermined penalty is imposed every time said reply is

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delayed by said one date behind said date or by said predetermined dates behind said date, together with said information urging said at least one developer client to make said reply, and an amount equivalent to said penalty is automatically drawn from a bank account every time said reply is delayed by one date behind said date or by predetermined dates behind said date.

However, Smirnov discloses levying a penalty when a task is not completed by a certain deadline, wherein the amount of the penalty is in some way associated with the length of the delay (see, for example, column 5, lines 44-61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to extend the reminder notices of Watanabe, Stiles, Shimakawa and Fitzpatrick with penalty information, and to levy such penalties when a reply is not made by the predetermined date, as taught by Smirnov, for the purpose of soliciting a timely response from the developer (see, for example, Fitzpatrick, column 2, lines 41-45).

Furthermore, it is well known that payments may be automatically posted to or drawn from a bank account. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to automatically draw the penalty levied by Watanabe, Stiles, Shimakawa, Fitzpatrick and Smirnov from a bank account.

### *Conclusion*

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Yigdall whose telephone number is (571) 272-3707. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MY

Michael J. Yigdall  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2192

mjy

  
TUAN DAM  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER